

Clayton County Water Authority

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Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Water and Sewer Rates Go Into Effect January 1

5% Adjustments Needed to Offset Rising Operational Costs and Declining Revenues

Morrow, Georgia - - The Clayton County Water Authority (CCWA) Board of Directors recently approved a 5% rate adjustment for all water and sewer base rates and a 5% adjustment for all water and sewer usage charges to offset rising operational costs and declining revenues.

The new rates will affect all residential and commercial customers, and will begin with usage on January 1, 2012. February 2012 bills will reflect the new rates. Even with this rate adjustment, CCWA rates remain significantly lower than most in the metro Atlanta area.

According to P. Michael Thomas, CCWA general manager, the impact to customers will depend on the amount of water they use each month. "Our average residential customer with water and sewer service uses 4,000 gallons a month. This rate adjustment will mean a \$2.00 increase in their monthly bill."

The new base rate for water for single family residential customers will be \$8.93 and the new base rate for sewer for single family residential customers will be \$9.45. The new usage charges will be based on the following conservation tiers:

Single Family Residential Water Conservation Tiers:

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
\$2.10	\$5.05	\$6.25	\$7.50
1,000 – 3,000 gallons	4,000 – 7,000 gallons	8,000 – 20,000 gallons	> 20,000 gallons

Single Family Residential Sewer Conservation Tiers:

Tier 1	Tier 2
\$2.26	\$5.30
1,000 - 3,000 gallons	>3,000 gallons

Stormwater fees will remain the same for all customers.

Thomas added that the Authority's management and staff continue working to reduce and manage operational costs, but water usage continues to decline while operational costs continue to increase.

"We are seeing an 11% increase in our chemical costs and a 10% increase in fuel costs," he added.

Unlike many water providers, CCWA does not receive any tax dollars, operating solely on water, sewer and stormwater revenues. The Authority has reduced chemical costs by changing some processes at its treatment plants and reduced the run time of one of its water production facilities by eliminating a second shift.

This rate adjustment is also needed to ensure that CCWA continues to comply with its bond debt covenants and with its 'pay as you go' strategy to maintain and invest in its infrastructure so additional bond debt is not needed. Thomas added that it is vital that CCWA remains proactive about maintaining its 1,500 miles of water lines and 1,400 miles of sewer lines, its three water reclamation facilities and three water production facilities.

"We work hard to ensure our customers dependable, high quality water and wastewater services that protect public health and safety while keeping our rates reasonable," Thomas added. "If we put off necessary maintenance in our system, it will cost us more in the long run."

For additional information on the January 2012 water and sewer rates, visit www.ccwa.us.

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